



KEEP **GREASE** OUT OF THE SYSTEM

# Vapor/Ventilation Hood Cleaning

### Why chemicals should not be used for ventilation hood cleaning

To clean vent hoods, filters and/or associated ducting **on-site**, your service provider **may not** use solvents, acids, detergents, caustics, or other similar chemical products. These chemicals dissolve, emulsify or otherwise liquefy grease into the wastewater. Many chemicals cannot be discharged to the sanitary sewer due to their toxicity or flammability. Others require pH treatment to neutralize the water before discharging to sanitary sewer. *Chemicals are not recommended for use when cleaning ventilation hoods.*

Even if the chemicals can be discharged to the sanitary sewer, high concentrations of grease in the wastewater can overwhelm grease traps or interceptors. Excess chemicals could liquefy the grease and cause a violation. Municipal codes prohibit oil and grease in excess of 150 parts per million, or the discharge of any obstructing, viscous substance.

### If vent hoods are cleaned ON-SITE:

- **Never** allow vent hood filters to be cleaned in your parking lot, the street or other outdoor paved areas where greasy wastewater can flow to the gutter and storm drain. It is unlawful to discharge polluted waters into a storm drain.
- **Never** discharge wastewater collected from vent hood and duct cleaning to the storm drains.
- **Maintain** records of all vent hood cleanings, including when filters were cleaned, how they were cleaned, who cleaned them, and how greasy wastewater from the cleaning was disposed of. These records are subject to inspection by

local officials and you are required to keep such records for at least three years.

- **If you have a grease trap:** consider using a professional cleaning service to clean your vent hood filters off-site. Grease traps and power operated grease removal devices are usually not designed to receive wastewater from vent hood cleanings.
- **If you have a grease interceptor:** Make sure the wastewater collected from vent hood and duct cleaning is disposed of through your grease interceptor.

Even if you have a grease interceptor, it is advisable to contract with a professional cleaning service to have your vent hood filters cleaned **off-site** to prevent the possibility of chemicals being introduced into your grease interceptor which could result in violation of local, state, and federal codes.

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Chemicals and grease can **never** be discharged to storm drains.



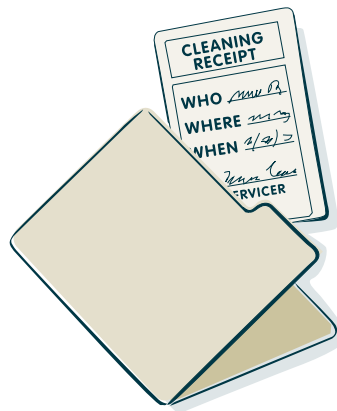
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**If you contract with a professional cleaning service to have your vent hood filters cleaned OFF-SITE:**

- Require that the cleaning service provide you with documentation of all vent hood cleanings, including when filters were cleaned, how they were cleaned, who cleaned them, where they were cleaned, and how greasy wastewater from the cleaning was disposed of. These records are subject to inspection and must be kept on-site for at least three years.

- As the owner or operator of the food service facility, you can be held liable for the improper disposal of any waste generated by your facility, even though the actual work was contracted to and performed by a third party.

***It is the responsibility of the food service facility owner or operator, as well as the property owner, to ensure their contractors and service providers comply with all applicable laws relating to the transport and disposal of grease generated at the facility.***



*Keep receipts of cleaning.*

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SAN JOSE/SANTA CLARA  
WATER POLLUTION  
CONTROL PLANT  
(408) 945-3000

Tributary agencies served by the treatment plant: San José, Santa Clara, Milpitas, Cupertino Sanitary District, West Valley Sanitation District (including Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga), County Sanitation Districts 2-3, Sunol & Burbank Sanitary Districts.



*Environmental Services*

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